

The instant amendment supplements the amendment filed July 20, 2000. Accordingly, changes to the specification and abstract in accordance with the previously filed amendment address those issues. Moreover, the newly presented claims incorporate changes effected by the previously filed amendment to address claim objections and rejections of record; thus, those portions of the remarks of the previously filed amendment related to the aforesaid changes to the claims are incorporated herein by reference.

Claims stand subject to objection and to rejection under 35 USC §112, ¶2. Reconsideration of the objections and rejection is respectfully requested in view of the newly presented claims.

Pursuant to discussions during the aforesaid interview, applicants understand that changes to the claim language incorporated in the newly presented claims are positive steps with respect to advancing prosecution of the instant application. As such, the changes addressing the aforesaid objections and rejection will be given careful consideration by the examiner.

The rejection under 35 USC 112, ¶1, is rendered moot by cancellation of the rejected claim, i.e., claim 43.

The rejection based on double patenting is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims; i.e., claims 28, 32, 43, 44, 45, and 47.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 103, applicants incorporate herein by reference the remarks addressing this rejection made in their previously filed amendment.

The claims withdrawn from consideration pursuant to restriction are canceled, hereby, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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